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### NOTES OF CASES.

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**A Woman's Testimony.**—If the "female of the species is more deadly than the male," how about her testimony in court? In a recent divorce proceeding in Missouri, the style of the case, *Bliss v. Bliss*, seems rather inappropriate. Two affirmatives must have made a negative and "busted" the blissful bubble. Anyhow both parties in the case were blissfully "busted," but this is beside the point. Defendant (the female of the species) left plaintiff's home with their little child merely for the purpose of visiting a relative, according to her testimony. When it was apparent that she was going, plaintiff brought suit for divorce alleging indignities on the part of defendant together with the kidnapping of their child; that defendant called plaintiff's brother a "pasty-faced, spindle-shanked sort of a man, weak and frail, always taking cold," just as plaintiff was, and then supplemented the compliments by serenading him with an original selection, a parody on "John Brown's body lies a mouldering in the grave." All this, defendant flatly denied, and in her cross-bill makes charges against plaintiff involving the use of "cusses" and trunk straps. He admitted the charges but excused himself by saying that while he was not in a "passion" at the time yet he "was moderately stirred." Now the question arises as to defendant's testimony. Did she tell the truth or not? The able advocate for plaintiff contended that her testimony should not be credited because she was a female, and therefore untrustworthy, and untruthful, citing as authority for his contention philosophers and poets. But the Kansas City Missouri Court of Appeals would not accept the doctrine, and rejected the statement, saying that, "Witnesses, whether male or female, differ in degrees of prejudice, in the sway of self-interest, and in the lack of proper moral perceptions. But these influences against the truth, affecting either sex, are to be judged by the court and jury, aided by cross-examination by the opposite party." *Bliss v. Bliss*, 142 Southwestern Reporter, 1081.

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**The Troubles of a Woman Mayor.**—What great calamity will befall us when the fair sex is given the elective franchise, and women become stockholders? 'Tis a grave question, and we oft bow our heads in silence in an attempt to banish the thought. As we look into the mirror of that coming age, we cannot fail to see, in our mind's eye, a most deplorable picture, resulting from woman being placed on the ruler's throne, and the downfall of mere man. For a concrete example, let us contrast that mental picture with a pinch of reality. In Kansas there is a small city known as Hunnewell, containing about 200 inhabitants. Some time ago they held an election,

and a woman, Mrs. Ella Wilson, became mayor. The council was made up of men. They took their office, and the fight was on. The mayor desired a woman for city clerk. The council preferred a man, who had sufficient knowledge and experience to draw an ordinance. The mayor next insisted that the city needed a marshal at a salary of \$30 a month. The council contended that the city had had no marshal for several years, and, being an ordinary country village in which a deputy sheriff resided, that a salaried marshal was unnecessary and would cause needless expense. The mayor next got an idea that the city should levy a tax. The council protested and urged that the city had no indebtedness and had sufficient money in the treasury to obviate the necessity of a tax levy. The mayor believed it was the duty of the council to confirm any appointments she made and that it was their duty to give reasons for failure to confirm. The members of the council disliked the idea of serving with a woman mayor, and were set in their notion that they would not submit to dictation by her. By reason of local gossip a council meeting soon came to be regarded as a great attraction and amusement, and even people from the country would come in to attend, the result being an unseemly and disorderly gathering, with but little accomplished except the entertainment of the assembled crowd. The result of this disorder and turmoil is recorded in 124 Pacific Reporter, 364, 87 Kan. 474, in *State v. Lander*, an action to remove from office three of the councilmen. The mayor asserted the above incidents, and, further, that the council had sought to further insult her by choosing a hotel bedroom for a place of meeting, and upon all this was based the prayer for ouster. The Supreme Court of Kansas, without deciding whether the councilmen have been guilty of willful misconduct or neglect, call the attention of the parties "to certain matters which they should know and observe," namely, the statutes under which they act and the duties enjoined upon them. The cause is continued for final disposition, when the court becomes satisfied whether or not the mayor and council are acting together in good faith for the welfare of the city.